

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 301169 TOSEC 320199

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 20742 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 09 DEC 76

QUOTE S E C R E T BONN 20742

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, PINT, GW, UR

SUBJECT: FURTHER FDP VIEWS ON SPD CONTACTS WITH MOSCOW

REF: BONN 20675

1. KLAUS KINKEL, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S ASSISTANT, TODAY TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY WOULD CONTINUE ALONG THE SAME LINES AS BEFORE AND THAT IT WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS MINISTRY RATHER THAN BY THE SPD.

2. KINKEL SAID THE SPD-FDP COALITION DISCUSSIONS WERE VIRTUALLY CONCLUDED. THEY HAD BEEN DIFFICULT, BUT THE PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN IN DOMESTIC RATHER THAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE PROCEDURE THAT HAD BEEN FOLLOWED WAS FOR EACH MINISTER, OF WHATEVER PARTY, TO PRESENT THE PROGRAM OF HIS MINISTRY. THE NEGOTIATORS

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THEN WOULD DISCUSS THAT PROGRAM, AMEND IT AS APPROPRIATE,

AND PROCEED TO OTHER TOPICS. IN THE CASE OF THE SPD-FDP NEGOTIATIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY, JUST COMPLETED, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY--NOT THE SPD--HAD PRESENTED THE PROGRAM AND THE PAPERS IT HAD PRESENTED WERE ESSENTIALLY ACCEPTED BY THE COALITION.

3. REFERRING TO THE WILLY BRANDT INTERVIEW IN TODAY'S ANZEIGER (REPORTED SEPARATELY), KINKEL SAID NO SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE APPEARANCE OF THIS ARTICLE 24 HOURS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE COALITION NEGOTIATIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY. HE SAID BRANDT'S IDEAS, WHERE THEY DIVERGED FROM ESTABLISHED POLICY, SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A NEW GERMAN DEPARTURE. HE SAID THAT BOTH COALITION PARTIES WERE A LITTLE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE DEAD END IN WHICH GERMAN OSTPOLITIK APPEARED TO BE TRAPPED. UNDOUBTEDLY, HE THOUGHT, EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO EXPLORE NEW AVENUES FOR AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, SUCH DIFFERENCES AS EXISTED BETWEEN THE COALITION PARTNERS WERE DIFFERENCES OF NUANCE AND NOT DIFFERENCES OF PRINCIPLE. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT BAHR, LACKING AN APPROPRIATE STAFF, COULD NOT REALLY HANDLE FOREIGN POLICY.

4. KINKEL REITERATED WHAT VERHEUGEN HAD SAID (REFTEL) TO THE EFFECT THAT GENSCHER WOULD TAKE THE FDP OUT OF THE COALITION IF SCHMIDT AND BRANDT WERE TO BEGIN CONDUCTING A FOREIGN POLICY THAT WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH GENSCHER'S IDEAS. HE SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE SPD COULD NOT FIND A COALITION PARTNER WHO WOULD BE MORE AMENABLE THAN THE FDP TO ITS IDEAS ON OSTPOLITIK.

5. KINKEL INDICATED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN AND GENSCHER CONTINUE POOR, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN OSTPOLITIK, AND THAT FALIN WOULD PROBABLY SOON LEAVE BONN. HE DID NOT INDICATE WHO MIGHT REPLACE FALIN.

6. AS FOR THE BREZHNEV VISIT PLANS, KINKEL SAID IDEAS
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FOR THE VISIT WERE NOW BEING DISCUSSED BUT OBVIOUSLY NO CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS COULD BE PUT FORTH BEFORE THE COALITION NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED. HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT KIND OF AGREEMENTS COULD BE REACHED. HE BELIEVED THAT GENSCHER WOULD WANT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE THREE FRG-SOVIET ACCORDS THAT WERE BEING HELD UP BECAUSE OF THE DISPUTE ABOUT INCLUDING BERLIN. HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED, ONE THING THAT WAS CERTAIN WAS

THAT GENSCHER WOULD NOT SIGN ANY OF THE THREE ACCORDS
UNLESS SOME PROVISION FOR BERLIN COULD BE MADE. HE
WOULD RATHER HAVE NO AGREEMENTS THAN A BAD BERLIN
CLAUSE, THOUGH HE RECOGNIZED THAT LACK OF A BERLIN
CLAUSE MIGHT, OVER TIME, ALSO HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT
ON THE POSITION OF THE CITY AND ON ITS TIES TO THE FRG.
STOESSEL

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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